

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1220 N Street, Room A-107
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-1447



TUBERCULOSIS TESTING IN CALIFORNIA

A Review for Accredited Veterinarians

California was declared "free" of bovine tuberculosis in October 1999. However, because of finding multiple herds affected with tuberculosis in the Tulare area, on April 25, 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) removed California from its list of tuberculosis accredited-free states. California is now classified as tuberculosis **modified accredited advanced**; sexually intact cattle now require a negative tuberculosis test to move interstate from California. **As an accredited veterinarian you must follow these guidelines.**

1. Handling tuberculin

- Check the expiration date
- Store in a refrigerator
- Do not freeze, and avoid sunlight
- Do not draw up ahead of time
- Throw away unused portions – oxidizes quickly!

2. Identification

- Record the official identification of every animal tuberculosis tested
- Official identification includes an official eartag or a registration tattoo

3. Injection

- Use 1 ml. syringe with 26 g 3/8" needle
- Inject 0.1 ml. intradermally in the caudal fold – get a "bleb"!
- If *you* inject, *you* read (remember which side)
- Do not vaccinate or treat cows on injection day
- There is no meat or milk withdrawal time for tuberculin

4. Reading the test

- Palpate every injection site you injected
- All animals injected must be read and recorded on official forms
- Read the test at 72 hours post injection \pm 6 hours
- **ANY swelling is a positive response** (check suspect box)
- **Report any responders *immediately* to the Animal Health Branch office and provide a copy of the test records**
- 1-5% false positive rate is expected - causes include *M. avium* subsp *paratuberculosis*, *M. avium*, and other soil-borne Mycobacterium
- State/Federal veterinarians must apply the CCT test on any responders within 10 days of injection, or must wait 60 days. Our commitment is to apply the CCT within 24 hours of notification.
- Mail white and green copies to Animal Health Branch district office in your area within five days of reading the test.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Animal Health Branch district office: Redding District 530-225-2140; Modesto District 209-491-9350; Tulare District 559-685-3500; Ontario District 909-947-4462.

We appreciate your efforts towards the rapid eradication of bovine tuberculosis in California.